

The Fire Fighter Gazette

Issue 12

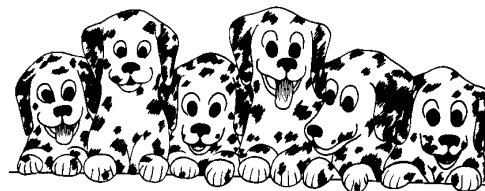
March 1998

DoD Fire School

*Article by Randy Moore, Chief of Advanced Courses,
DoD Fire Academy*

Firefighters in the field, this message is for you! Are you tired of going TDY? Would you like to be home with your family every night? Would you like to have every weekend and holiday off? Would you like the opportunity to get a Bachelors Degree in Fire Service Management in just 16 months? How about a chance to work in a new \$44M fire training complex (best in the world) with instructors from all services? How about an opportunity to maybe get promoted quicker than your peers? If you answer yes to any of these questions, I've got a deal for you! Volunteer for instructor duty at the Louis F. Garland Fire Academy. Basically, all you need is good EPR's plus an Associates Degree or within a few hours of one. The degree is required to maintain CCAF accreditation. **BOTTOM LINE:** We need instructors who want to be here and are self-motivated. This experience will benefit you for your entire career. See your local personnel office for a special duty application...we are hiring today! **HEADS UP!** If you're going to be attending Rescue, Supervisory Firefighter, Hazardous Material Train-the-Trainer, or the stand alone Airport Firefighter course, bring YOUR own fit-tested Interspiro mask. As you know, this is an AFOSH and NFPA 1500 requirement and we have to start enforcing this safety issue. It is assumed that if you're going to at-

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Need Your Help

As always, we would like to solicit your articles or questions, so here is how you can get in touch with us: 510 CES/CEF, 6202 Pine Drive, USAF Academy, CO 80840. Our phone numbers are: Commercial: (719) 333-2051, DSN 333-2051, and FAX: (719) 333-3740, DSN 333-3740. If possible, article submissions should include a Word For Windows file on floppy disk. Another way to get in touch with us is through E-Mail:

ernst.piercy@usafa.af.mil

Using this method, you can attach your articles right to the message! We are also on the World Wide Web, and would love to have you visit us:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/fire-dept>

A description of our department, vehicles, equipment, SOPs, this newsletter and many links are located on our page.

Have a picture?

If you can send it to us on disk, in any format, we can publish it in the Gazette!

We need instructors who want to be here and are self-motivated.

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tend an advanced course, that you should have already been tested at your installation. Live training fires involving both propane and JP-8 are a possibility in these courses. Please help us out here, as we don't want to send any student home without a diploma. Rescue course students also need to have either a P-10 or P-28 driver's license, as students in this course now drive the vehicles in training. Call Capt John Enyeart at DSN 477- 4566 for details or E-mail him at:

Airman's Medal

Master Sergeant **Frank Torres Jr.**, Deputy Fire Chief, Holloman AFB, NM was presented the Airman's Medal by Brigadier General Dennis Larsen, Commander, 49 Fighter Wing in a fire station ceremony on December 8, 1997. The Citation read: "Technical Sergeant Frank Torres, Jr., distinguished himself by heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Marandua, Columbia, on 22 November 1995. On that date and while off duty, Sergeant Torres rushed on foot to a helicopter crash site located in an isolated area. Upon arrival at the crash site, a surviving crew member informed him that other crew members were unaccounted for. Sergeant Torres, despite fire dangerously close to 7.62 millimeter ammunition, unhesitatingly entered the burning aircraft and used his pocket knife to cut away safety harnesses and dragged the two crew members to safety. He then helped move other victims to safety and cordon off the hazardous area. The exemplary courage and heroism displayed by Sergeant Torres reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

Submitted by: Elzie T. Little, Fire Chief, Holloman AFB, NM

Words of Wisdom ...

The following is a speech given to a graduating fire fighter class last year by a retired chief officer of the New York City Fire Department. He was addressing the San Jacinto College (Houston) class of 1997.

To the San Jacinto College class of 1997 from a graduate of the New York City firefighter class of 1957. The following are lessons learned over the past 40 years in the fire service. I would like to pass them along to you.

1. The fire service is dangerous profession. Ever year, on average 100 firefighters die and another 100,000 are injured. To stay safe, study and learn about your emergency work and its hazards. Knowledge of your job enhances safety.

2. Heart attacks are the number-one killer of firefighters. Remain in good physical and mental condition. A

lifelong commitment to exercise and good living can save your life and make you a better firefighter.

3. The military, police, and fire service--we are all in dangerous professions where members risk their lives. But fire fighting is different. We have the best of the death professions. For example, in the military to be a good soldier you may have to shoot people. In law enforcement, to be a good police officer you may have to arrest people. In the fire service, to be a good firefighter we have to save lives. After your career is over, your memories will be good ones.

4. The job makes the man (or woman); the man (or woman) does not make the job. What does this mean? It means look at your supervisor or chief. You will most likely assume some of the personality traits of that person during work. We rarely change the job. The job changes us. When you set your sights on a position or rank, look closely at the person who has that job, because you may become like him or her.

5. Support your boss. The top job is the toughest assignment in your department. If you get an opportunity to work with the chief, take it. You will see close-up the pressures and stresses of the position. So, if later you achieve the position, you will know what to expect.

6. Work for labor-management cooperation. You may have to work with a union official without compromising your management responsibilities. This is tough to do but it's the only way. If you become involved in an explosive labor-management situation, remember after the crisis is over we all have to work together again.

7. Balance your work in the fire service and your family. After you accomplish all your life goals and ambitions at work, you will then understand, like I did, you could not have accomplished it without their love and support.

8. A firefighter is a social worker with muscles. The fire service is physical social work. You help people by stretching hose-lines and raising ladders.

9. The fire service does more than fight fires. We now are an all-purpose emergency service—fires, medical emergencies, auto extrication, drowning, hazmat, rope rescue, confined space collapse rescue, floods, tornadoes. We do it all.

10. Specialize and teach. Learn one of the emergency service specialties very well. Become an expert in the subject, then teach it to a new firefighter. As a friend of mine told me, "We all have an obligation to leave this fire service 'better' than it was when we joined it."

PME for Deployed Personnel

PURPOSE: This paper provides general guidelines and points of contact (POC) for PME support to deployed personnel. As extended deployments affect more members, a more flexible approach to PME completion is required. The Air University (AU) distance learning programs offer that approach. Each school has established procedures to work with students to meet their PME needs.

DISCUSSION: With the increased opstempo across the Air Force, the challenge to complete PME courses has greatly increased. Fully understanding these challenges, the nonresident study staffs at the AU schools have established procedures to work with students needing extra time to complete their courses. These procedures are spelled out in the documentation each student receives. Waivers are available on a case-by-case basis, and by talking with the school POC, arrangements can be worked out. If a problem is encountered, the following guidelines may be followed:

- If the person is enrolled in the seminar program and a seminar exists at the deployed location, they can join that seminar. If no seminar program exists at the location, and the deployment will be for an extended period, then the student should transfer to the correspondence program. This may be accomplished by contacting the applicable non-resident course POC.

- The courses are available on the internet. The student can accomplish applicable lessons by accessing the school's distance learning website.

- Correspondence is the most flexible means to complete the PME. Depending on the school, the courses are offered in a variety of medias. The AWC correspondence program is offered in printed form only. The ACSC course follows a CD-ROM format. SOS and CEPME offer both formats at this time. Therefore, the correspondence program offers the flexibility to take the study material along on the deployment. The CD-ROM format presents a challenge, but most units arrange to have computer support at the deployed location, which could be shared.

- In the case of extended deployments, testing and receipt of additional volumes can be handled by contacting the school POC and informing them of the change in requirements. If there is a test control facility at the deployed location, the test will be forwarded there for administering. In the event a facility is not available, arrangements can be made with the commander to proctor the test. If the deployment is at a datamasked loca-

tion, the unit can work directly with the school on behalf of the student to ensure their PME availability.

- If it is determined deployment taskings preclude the student from pursuing their PME, then a waiver may be in order. On a case-by-case basis waivers are granted for documented delays due to extended deployments. By providing verification of the deployment to the school POC, arrangements can be made to extend a student's allotted time for completion of the course. The POCs are more than willing to work very hard to support students in the completion of PME.

- A listing of the school distance learning POCs is attached.

SUMMARY: The increased Air Force opstempo has presented challenges to our members for completion of PME. Procedures are in effect to support their efforts. When difficulties are encountered, it is imperative the students contact the respective school POC for help. In the event the student cannot contact the school due to a datamasked location, then the issue can be worked by the unit on behalf of the student. Every effort will be made to support PME completion.

Lt Col Ferguson/HQ AU/XOOS/DSN 493-5377/lcf/31 Jul 97

The POCs for the Air University non-residence programs are:

(334) - Air War College Lt Col Frey, AWC/NS (jfrey@max1.au.af.mil) 325 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6427953-7755 or DSN 493-7755 (fax ext 7225)

- Air Command and Maj Poti, ACSC/DED (jpoti@max1.au.af.mil) Staff College 225 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6426 1-800-316-7042 or (334) 953-7901 or DSN 493-7901 (fax ext 4003)

(334) - Squadron Officer School, Capt Landers, SOS/EDCX (vlanders@max1.au.af.mil), 125 Chennault Circle, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6430, 953-2334 or DSN 493-2334 (fax ext 3580)

- College for Enlisted PME, CMSgt Stevenson, CEPME/DE, (mstevenson@CEPME.Gunter.af.mil), Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, AL 36114-3107, (334)

Automatic Nozzles ...

Are You Getting the Most for your Money?

Many fire fighters misunderstand how these nozzles are designed to operate to protect personnel on

One of the more popular nozzles used by Air Force fire departments is the “automatic” nozzle. Elkhart and Akron makes these nozzles, but the best known are those made by Task Force Tips. These nozzles are designed to provide the nozzle fire fighter with the ability to control the flow of water based on fire conditions. We are going to discuss the correct procedures for operating these type nozzles on attack lines.

First, one must understand the principles that make these nozzles effective. Many fire fighters misunderstand how these nozzles are designed to operate to protect personnel on the line. The basic concept of the automatic nozzle is to provide a constant 100 pounds nozzle pressure regardless of the gallon per minute flow. The nozzles are designed to provide an effective fire stream to the fire fighter, who has control over the amount of water being discharged. If a single fire fighter was available to control a line, he could start water at a lower flow, making the line easier to handle. If the fire continued to grow, the nozzle could be opened further to allow more water to be applied without changing settings at the pumper.

The problem is that many fire departments set their attack lines for the lower end of the flow spectrum, thus limiting the amount of water available to the fire fighter on the nozzle. If a department is going to use these nozzles at the lower limits, they are really spending a lot of money to provide a limited flow.

Many departments carry preconnected attack lines of 1.75” hose, 200 feet long, with automatic nozzles. The pump discharge pressure is set about 150 PSI. How much water is really being delivered to the nozzle? We know that the nozzle requires 100 PSI at the tip to operate correctly. That leaves 50 PSI to overcome friction loss in the attack line itself or 25 PSI per 100 feet of hose. This allows about 125 gallons per minute (GPM) to flow through the line. This is not much of an improve-

ment from the older 95 GPM fog nozzles and 1.5” hose. Many departments spent a lot of money to upgrade their nozzles, but did not realize an equivalent improvement in the amount of water being delivered to the fire fighter.

What will improve the flow rates? The basic Task Force Tip nozzle can flow 350 gallons per minute. For a 1.75” attack line the realistic flow is closer to 200 gallons per minute. On a 200-foot line, that will require a pump discharge pressure of 225 pounds. Is that a lot of pressure? Yes, and it’s a lot of water. But if that flow is not required, the nozzle is not opened all the way, reducing the flow. If fire conditions worsen, the bail hook is simply opened more, and flow is right at the tip. The line will be harder to handle, but training and experience will overcome that problem.

What is the bottom line to the Fire Department? It could be just simple economics. If you only want to deliver 100 GPM to the line, there are much cheaper nozzles to buy, which will deliver that flow and save you money. If you use automatics, review the discharge pressures for each attack line and figure out exactly how much water is available to the nozzle operator. Many people believe that having a nozzle with the capability to flow large amounts of water means a large amount is being delivered. Not true. Remember that an automatic nozzle is designed to discharge a good-looking fire stream at all flows. A low flow will still look like a good fire stream, but may be inefficient for the fire attack situation. Determine the flow that provides the most protection for the person on the end of the line, and then pump the line at that flow.



Random Thoughts

Fire fighters continue to deploy to contingency locations without the required self-contained breathing apparatus and portable radios.

The following comments are "off line" comments overheard at the January 1998 Readiness Workshop at San Antonio TX. They are NOT official meeting minutes:

1. Headquarters AETC to be the lead command in conducting a fire fighter retention survey; apparently our reenlistment rate is deplorable.
2. The schoolhouse has a continuing need for instructors.
3. Headquarters AFCEA indicated that we will have a recommended fire fighter fitness program by this summer. It will be a Department of Defense program and will be implemented in 1999.
4. There are a lot of new fire fighting agents on the market, anyone interested in these new agents should contact **Mr. George Hall** at Tyndall Air Force Base. If his office has not already evaluated that agent they will be happy to do so.
5. Headquarters AFCEA stated that the fire fighter manpower availability factor is going to be studied.
6. **Mr. Jim Hotell** of Headquarters AFCEA announced that fire chiefs should purchase structural training facilities that satisfy their certification needs. There will not be a standardized Air Force structural training facility.
7. Fire fighters continue to deploy to contingency locations without the required self-contained breathing apparatus and portable radios.
8. Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) is now available without the environmentally bad stuff in it.
9. The International Association of Fire Chiefs meeting will occur 10-18 Sept 98 at Louisville Kentucky.
10. There is still no replacement agent in the near term for Halon 1211 and 1301.

World Wide Web Announcement

The *Fire Fighter Gazette* is now available via the World Wide Web. Please access the Air Force Academy Fire Department Home Page at:

<http://www.usafa.af.mil/fire-dept>

then go to the *Fire Fighter Gazette* page. You will find previous editions of the Gazette, including the current edition (of course).

Please write, e-mail, call, or FAX us if you would like us to take you OFF of our mailing list, now that it is electronically available.

Important Information

The *Fire Fighter Gazette* is a publication that is designed for all Air Force fire fighters. The editor would be more than happy to print things that are important to you. Here are some examples of things we are looking for:

People information — outstanding performers, people recently promoted, awards received, etc. If it's important to you, it's important to us.

Departmental information — success stories, inspection results, response information, new facilities, etc.

Anything else you might think is interesting enough to share with other Air Force fire fighters!

A1C **Sean Italiane**, after a response to the Air Force Academy Hospital.



Fire Fighter Pay Legislation

... this will be the first bill that is being looked at by all Federal and Union groups as being feasible.

The following is a bullet background paper put together by Mr. Phil Gibson, HQ AF-CESA/CEO. Some of the information provided is speculative, and the reader should understand that this bill MIGHT pass through the House and Senate. This article should not be misconstrued in such a manner that the reader believes this legislation will pass. Obviously we have a complex legislative system through which any proposed pay bill must run its course.

PURPOSE

To bring you up to speed on a recent Office of Management Budget (OMB), Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and Department of Defense (DoD) compromise on proposed fire fighter pay. The compromise is on an OPM bill entitled "Federal Fighter's Overtime Pay Reform Act of 1998". DoD responded back to OMB stating they do not object to the legislation.

BACKGROUND

Since 1992, we have worked with the DoD through HQ USAF/DPC to interject an alternative pay system that was not anywhere near as expensive as previously sponsored legislation. This particular bill incorporates some of the DoD features. Also, this will be the first bill that is being looked at by all Federal and Union groups as being feasible. OMB will still have to report on its relationship to the program of the President's "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions, Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

DISCUSSION

- Conceptually the bill changes "Premium Pay to Overtime".

-- Currently our folks draw 40 hours base pay, then 13 hours of premium, non-exempt employees then get 18 hours Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) overtime (OT). Now they will get 40 hours base pay, 13 hours of overtime and 19 hours FLSA OT.

-- Overtime will be computed by dividing the annual rate of pay by 2756 to derive the hourly rate.

-- Basically this will provide a 10% higher salary.

- Assistant Chiefs would now draw FLSA OT (this part is being worked out), if this is not spelled out more clearly than it is now, they would draw a significant amount of the regular OT instead of FLSA OT.

- Fire Chiefs/Dep Fire Chiefs working 56/60 hours would receive an increase in pay equivalent to 2 step increases. If an employee is maxed out (GS-13, step10) then he will get the equivalent of 2 within grade increases plus 16 hours of overtime.

- What the bill is silent about, is whether or not the new OT pay will count toward high 3 retirement credit as premium pay does now. Current law does not credit overtime pay towards retirement. Not sure what the intent here is since it doesn't mention anything about retirement.

- The great news is that our folks will be paid full salary for time spent in training because of this bill.

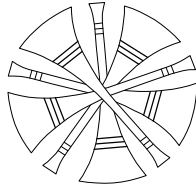
CONCLUSION

OMB will discuss with OPM and report to the White House soon. The money has been provided through the US Comptrollers Office. It is included in the FYDP for Defense. This could be effective 1 Oct 98. This will cost DoD \$42,088,951.94 with the AF portion at \$12,627,314.79 for FY99. We are unsure where the "rob Peter to pay Paul" came from, but it is what we have been trying to accomplish for a period of time. I will track this closely...we want this to happen.



Fire News

Promotion



Ricky Grammar was promoted to the Chief of Fire Protection for Air Material Command (Scott AFB) from Nellis AFB, Nevada.

Doug Baker of the Air Force Academy Fire Department was recently promoted to GS-8, Station Captain.

Retirement Announcement

Air Force Fire Protection bids farewell to Chief Master Sergeant **Leopold Dumond** who will officially retire in June. Chief Dumond will depart Misawa AB, Japan on 3 March for Orlando, Florida. Chief Dumond has spent a majority of his career in the Pacific Theater and has served as the Misawa Air Base Fire Chief since May, 1995. Good Luck Chief Dumond!

Final Alarm



The former Fire Chief of Hickam AFB, HI, **Frank Cox**

passed away on 29 January 1998.

Chief Cox began his fire protection career upon enlisting in the Air Force in 1950, and for the next two decades, he held various assignments throughout the world, including Kimpo AB during the Korean War, and Tuy Hoa AB in the Republic of Vietnam, where he received the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service under enemy fire.

Cox was an early pioneer in the develop-

ment of fire fighting tactics for combating fires on the new generation of large frame aircraft that entered worldwide service in the 1970s. As the crash-rescue project officer at the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards AFB, Calif., he was directly involved with the developmental testing of the Lockheed L-1011 TriStar, the C-5A Galaxy, and the Boeing 747.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1970, he began a second career that would span 25 years with Federal Civil Service, serving in various senior-level positions within the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Force and Navy. He also served a special duty assignment for the State Department and International Civil Aviation Organization to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he was the Director of Aircraft Fire Protection, an assignment prompted in the wake of a major aircraft accident in 1980 which took the lives of 301 people.

Cox was a founding member of the Hawaii Fire Chief's Association, a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

At the time of his death, Cox was employed by Monaco Enterprises, Inc., a fire and security alarm company headquartered in Spokane, Wash., where he served as Western Regional Manager with responsibilities throughout the Pacific Rim.

Born in West Nottingham, Md., he is survived by his wife, Tina T. Cox of West Palm Beach, Fla., and sisters Patsy Cress, Bonnie Mooney and Nancy Ropka. all of



Have some news you'd like to share with the world? See page one for details for how to submit your information for publication in a future issue of the *Fire Fighter Gazette*.

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